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O 232051Z AUG 95  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200641

TO AMBASSADOR - KIGALI AND TO AMBASSADOR - BUJUMBURA

E.O. 12356: DECL: 990823  
TAGS: PREL PGOV ASEC BY RW CG  
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. FOLLOWING IS AUGUST 22 RWANDA AND BURUNDI SITREP.
2. BEGIN TEXT:

SECURITY SITUATION

(C) THE FORCED REPATRIATION OF RWANDAN REFUGEES FROM  
ZAIRE CONTINUES, IN BIGGER NUMBERS THAN MONDAY. THE  
ZAIRE DESK WILL PUT OUT A SEPARATE SITREP WITH DETAILS.  
DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF USG, UNHCR, UN AND OTHERS  
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ALSO CONTINUE, FOCUSED ON GETTING ZAIRE TO HALT THE REFOULEMENT.

(C) AMEMBASSY KIGALI DEMARCHED THE FOREIGN MINISTER REGARDING THE FORCED REPATRIATION. THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA WAS CAUTIONED AGAINST PROVOCATIVE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE REFOULEMENT, AND WAS INFORMED THAT WE WERE DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT. ANOTHER SET OF INSTRUCTIONS IS BEING SENT TO KIGALI, TO SUGGEST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA THAT THEY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION, BY CONTINUING TO HANDLE THE INVOLUNTARY REPATRIATION IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER AND GIVING SOME ASSURANCES ON LAND TENURE AND AMNESTY FOR LOW-LEVEL OFFENDERS.

BURUNDI

SECURITY: INTERNAL, BORDER, REGIONAL

(C) A CATHOLIC PRIEST WAS SHOT DEAD AFTER CELEBRATING MASS IN NORTHERN BURUNDI. TWO GRENADES EXPLODED AT THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICE, BUT NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED.

(C) ZAIRE FORCIBLY REPATRIATED REFUGEES TO BURUNDI, THOUGH IN SMALLER NUMBERS THAN IN RWANDA. 1600 REFUGEES WERE REPORTEDLY SENT BACK ON MONDAY, AND 300 BY 10 AM ON TUESDAY. HOWEVER, TWO REFUGEE CAMPS ACROSS THE BORDER, WHICH NORMALLY HOLD 26,000 REFUGEES, WERE REPORTED EMPTY, WITH MANY OF THE INHABITANTS HAVING FLED INTO THE ZAIRIAN BUSH.

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RWANDA/BURUNDI

(C) A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING AT THE NSC DISCUSSED A RANGE OF ISSUES CONCERNING RWANDA AND BURUNDI, INCLUDING THE FORCED REPATRIATION. ATTENDING FOR STATE WERE UNDERSECRETARY WIRTH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEORGE MOOSE AND SPECIAL COORDINATOR RICHARD BOGOSIAN.

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END TEXT.  
CHRISTOPHER

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